(vii) Improvement of industrial relation through participative management at all levels.

Loss suffered by ECL

1871. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CO AL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Eastern Coalfields Ltd. suffered a loss of Rs. 341.1 crores in 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the financial results for 1997-98 and the first half of 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The loss suffered by Eastern Coalfields Limited for 1996-97 is Rs. 341.15

(b) The loans suffered by Eastern Coalfields Limited for 1997-98 was Rs. 541.89 crores and the loss sustained for first half of 1998-99 (April—September '98) is Rs. 347.29 crores (provisional and unaudited).

कोयला खानो का निजीकरण

1872. **श्री राम शंकर कौशिक** :

श्री रामगोपाल यादव :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार कोयला खानों के निजीकरण के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है;

(क) क्या इस संबंध में निर्णय कर लिया गया है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कोयला खानों का निजीकरण किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार के कार्य कम/नीति/तौर-तरीके क्या-क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय) : (क) से (ग) जी, नहीं। तथापि, कोयला मंत्रालय, कोयला खान (राष्ट्रीयकरण) अधिनियम, 1973 में संशोधन करने का विचार कर रहा है ताकि भारतीय कम्पनियों ग्रहीत उपभोग के विद्यमान प्रतिबंध के बिना कोयला खनन की अनुमति प्राप्त कर सके। उक्त में कोल इंडिया लि0 (को0 ई0 लि0) अथवा सिगरेनी कोलियरीज कम्पनी लि0 (सि0को0के0लि0) कीविद्यमान किसी कोयला खान के निजोकरण किये जाने का प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Faulty gas masks causing health risk to miners

1873. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the life saving equip ments such as 30000 gas masks cost ing about Rs. 5 crores purchased by the Coal India Limited for the pro tection of coal miners have been found to be posing health risks to miners;

(b) if so, the name of company from which gas masks were purchas ed by Coal India, Limited and at what price;

(c) whether the gas masks at the time of testing proved defective and the Coal India Limited have been directed by DGMS not to entertain the deal; and

(d) if so, this corrective measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c). Only filter self rescuers (FSRs) having approval from DGMS are procured by CIL. Against Global Tender for procurement of FSRs an order for 30,000 was placed on M/s Joseph Leslie Drager Mfg. Pvt. Ltd. on 13.10.95 at a cost of Rs. 5.06 crores. This order "was placed against approval issued by DGMS vide lletter. dated 6-10-95. This approval which was valid initially j for 6 months was later on extended [1] to 5.10.96 and then further extended upto 31-10-97 vide letters from